

## PREFACE

The first edition of Class A, General Works, was published in 1911, the second in 1915, the third in 1947 (reprinted in 1953), and the fourth in 1973. A 1998 edition cumulated additions and changes that were made during the period 1973-1998, and was followed by the 2008 edition. An edition was published in 2012. This 2016 edition cumulates additions and changes made since the 2015 edition.

In the Library of Congress Classification schedules, classification numbers or spans of numbers that appear in parentheses are formerly valid numbers that are now obsolete. Numbers or spans that appear in angle brackets are optional numbers that have never been used at the Library of Congress but are provided for other libraries that wish to use them. In most cases, a parenthesized or angle-bracketed number is accompanied by a "see" reference directing the user to the actual number that the Library of Congress currently uses, or a note explaining Library of Congress practice.

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Libby Dechman, senior cataloging policy specialist in the Policy and Standards Division, is responsible for coordinating the overall intellectual and editorial content of class A. Kent Griffiths and Ethel Tillman, assistant editors of classification schedules, are responsible for creating new classification records, maintaining the master database, and creating index terms for the captions.

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